

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-04

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INFO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

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SUBJ: FUTURE OF MAZAMBIQUE AND PORTUGUESE GUINEA

REF: DAO/LISBON IR NO. 6879 0137 73

SUMMARY: WE HAVE RELIABLE REPORT CONFIRMING THAT GUINEA GOVERNOR AND C-IN-C GEN. SPINOLA WILL LEAVE GUINEA IN AUGUST. CIVILIAN GOVERNORSHIP OFFERED TO PAF GEN. NETO, WHO REFUSED IN BELIEF GOVERNOR WOULD BE SCAPEGOAT WHEN PORTUGAL IS FORCED OUT OF GCINEA. MOZEMBIWKQUE C-IN-C KAULZA D ARRIAGA APPEARS TB BE LEAVING HIS COMMAND UNDER A CLOUD FOR FAILURES IN MAZAMBIQUE.; ,ETO SAID PORTUGUESE IN MOZAMBIQUE BELIEVE PROVINCE WILL BE DIVIDED UP BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA, RHODESIA AND MALAWI OR FRELIMO. WHILE IDEAS NOT NEW THIS IS THE FIRST WE HAVE HEARD THEM EXPRESSED BY SUCH A HIGH RANKING OFFICER. END SUMMARY.

1. SOURCE OF UNQUESTIONABLE RELIABILITY HAS CONFIRMED TO US MUCH OF REF REPORT AS RESWBT CONVERSATIONS SOURCE HAD AT WEEK'S END WITH COMMANDER MOZAMBIQUE

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AIR REGION, GENERAL MANUEL DIOGO NETO. NETO STATED

THAT PRESENT GUINEA GOVERNOR AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF GENERAL SPINOLA HAS INSPSTED TO GOP THAT HE IS LEAVING GUINEA THIS AUGUST WHETHER OR NOT REPLACEMENT HAS ARRIVED. ACCORDING TO NETO, GOP PLANS REPLACE SPINOLA WITH A CIVIL GOVERNOR AND A SEPARATE CINC. NETO UNAWARE OF ANY CANDIDATE AS YET FOR CINC. CIVIL GOVERNOR JOB WAS OFFERED TO NETO BY MINISTER OF DEFENSE. NETO DECLINED BUT AGREED MEET WITH PRIME MINISTER CAETANO ON MATTER JULY 13, ON WHICH OCCASION HE ALSO REFUSED. NETO GAVE AS REASON FOR REFUSING HIS CERTAINTY THAT PORTUGAL WOULD PULL OUT OF GUINEA WITHIN TWO OR THREE YEARS, THAT TO CIVIL GOVERNOR WOULD FALL TASK OF CARRYING OUT EXTRICATION OF PORTUGAL FROM GUINEA (POSSIBLY INCLUDING NEGOTIATIONS WITH PAIGC), AND THAT THEREFORE CIVIL GOVERNOR WOULD BE HELD RESPONSIBLE BY PORTUGUESE PUBLIC OPINION FOR LOSS OF GUINEA.

2. NETO CONFIRMED RUMOR CINC/MOZAMBIQUE WILL BE OFFERED AND WILL REFUSE AMBASSADORSHIP TO SPAIN. NETO SEES THIS OFFER AS PART OF CAMPAIGN BY GOP TO HUMBLE KAULZA DE ARRIAGA WHO WILL NOT GET A SECOND AND BETTER OFFER BUT WILL BE SHELVED AS SCAPEGOAT FOR FAILURES IN MOZAMBIQUE. RECENT PRESS COVERAGE OF KAULZA'S IMPENDING RETURN STRESSES THAT HE LEAVES BEHIND UNFINISHED BUSINESS. (SOURCE COMMENTS THAT KAULZA IN BAD GRACE FOR HAVING MADE MISTAKE OF PREDICTING END OF WAR WHICH NOW MORE INTENSE WELL AFTER TIME HE SAID IT WOULD BE OVER. HIS DEPARTURE AT TIME OF WORLD OUTCRY OVER ALLEGED ATROCITIES IN MOZAMBIQUE BY PORTUGUESE TROOPS WILL ADD TO HIS DISGRACE.)

3. NETO REPORTED GENERAL FEELING AMONG PORTUGUESE IN MAZAMBIQUE (HE MAY HAVE BEEN SPEAKING ONLY OF MILITARY) THAT AT SOME POINT IN FUTURE IT WOULD PROBABLY BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR PORTUGUESE TO CONTINUE TO CONTROL SITUATION AND THAT AT THAT TIME TERRITORY WOULD BE DIVIDED UP BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA, RHODESIA, AND MALAWI OR FRELIMO.

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4. COMMENT: WHILE DISMEMEBERMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE AND RELATIVELY IMMINENT PORTUGUESE DEPARTURE FROM GUINEA HAVE BEEN PREDICTED BY MANY OBSERVERS, THIS FIRST TIME TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THAT SUCH SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED BY SUCH A HIGH-RANKING, REPUTEDLY APOLITICAL, AND FULLY ESTABLISHMENT-ORIENTED PORTUGUESE MILITARY OFFICER.

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